PROJECT NUMBER: 1620
PROJECT TITLE: Electrophysiological Studies
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I. NASAL EVENT-RELATED POTENTIALS (NERPs)

A. **Objective**: To develop methods by which to objectively and reliably evaluate human responses to cigarettes, smoke constituents and tobacco flavorants.

B. **Results**:

1. Cognitive NERP Study

The first phase of the modifications to the olfactometer are nearing completion. Contamination problems as well as a problem in the switching mechanism of the olfactometer have delayed the testing of the new odorant delivery system. These problems are currently being corrected and experiments to test the operation of the new system should begin the first week in March.

R. Greene has written a RPL procedure that allows the NERP waveform data to be automatically read into RS1. Investigation is underway to determine whether the current format of the data is suitable for conducting various multivariate statistical analyses available through BMDP. Additionally, PC statistical/graphical software packages are being evaluated for their utility in manipulating and displaying multivariate data.

C. **Plans**: Upon completion of the modification and testing of the olfactometer, plans are to continue parametric manipulations of the cognitive paradigm in order to determine the optimal parameters for elicitation of the late positivity of the NERP.

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